

Round the Soviet Union

● A GUARANTEE OF THE RELIABLE OPERATION OF THE URENGOI-CENTRE-1 GAS PIPELINE WILL BE A RESERVE SIPHON ACROSS THE VOLGA. It is being laid not to an already operating one, but in a single strand, the pipes, nearly two and a half kilometers long, are being laid in a trench on the bottom with navigational continuing unhindered.

● PROSPECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE SYSTEM TO SEARCH FOR AND RESCUE CREWS OF SHIPS AND PLANES IN DISTRESS ARE BEING DISCUSSED AT A MEETING IN Leningrad by the INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP OF THIS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. With the help of the space rescue service COSPAS-SARSAT, in the first two years alone more than one hundred experimental rescue operations were carried out and 250 people of various nationalities were saved. Apart from the founding countries — the USSR, the USA, Canada and France — delegates from Britain, Bulgaria, Norway and Finland who have joined the organization as observing members, also attended the meeting.

● FROM THE APPEARANCE OF A PRIMITIVE MAN IN THE SHAN MOUNTAINS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST CONTACTS BETWEEN THE NOMADIC KIRGIZ PEOPLE AND THE INHABITANTS OF RUSSIA IS THE CHRONOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE FIRST VOLUME, JUST OUT OF PRINT, OF "HISTORY OF THE KIRGIZ SSR". It precedes the fourth edition of chronicles of the mountainous area.

The publication of the first volume of the materials for which were prepared for printing by an international team of scholars is being taken up by the History Institute of the Kirgiz Academy of Sciences and the republic's publishing house Kyrgyzstan.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

MAN AND WOMAN: FACTUAL EQUALITY

The above thesis is confirmed by statistics published in PRAYDA. A total of 51 per cent of all those employed are women. In trade and public catering their share is considerably higher, 83 per cent; in health services, 82 per cent, and 73 per cent in education.

Over 500 thousand women work as directors of factories, construction projects, state farms, service industry facilities, cultural educational and health institutions. Over half of all the employed women are intellectuals.

Between 1970 and 1983 women-professionals with higher and specialized secondary education employed in the national economy almost doubled to reach 18.6 million people, or 80 per cent of all the country's professionals.

To compare, in France only 30 per cent of all women employed have special education. In West Germany, 38 per cent, and in Italy, 32.

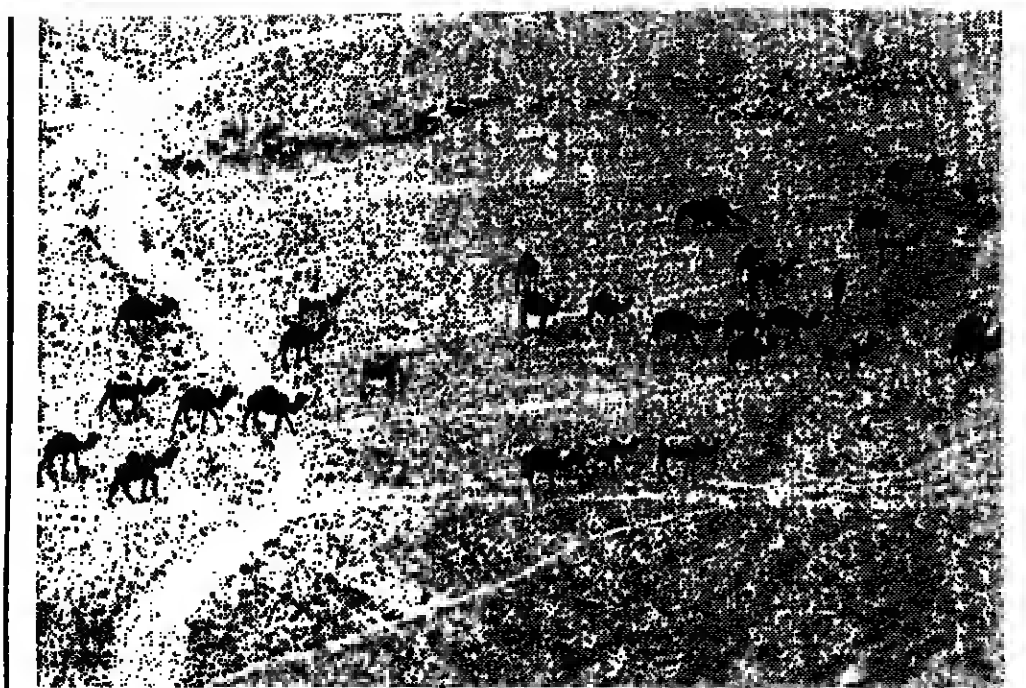
In the Common Market countries, women earn only 60 to 70 per cent of men's earnings or even less. In Italy working women receive only half of men's salaries and the gap is growing. In the United States, women earn only 59 cents per every dollar earned by men.

BREEDS AND MACHINES

What is simpler — to milch cattle to existing technology or to technology to milch? This question is on the agenda of the SIBIRSKAYA ZHIZN.

This country farms some 50 breeds of cattle, writes Professor Ye. Arzumanyan. Old breeds have been considerably modified to increase milk yields by 40 to 45 per cent, or by 900-1,000 kilograms of milk from every cow a year.

The Karakum Desert today and tomorrow



● The water from the Karakum Canal will soon cross the western areas of the republic.

Turkmenistan is a Soviet Central Asian republic. Lowlands cover most of its territory. Three-fourths of the republic is occupied by the Karakum Desert, with a total area of 350 thousand square kilometers (i.e., larger than such states as Britain, Italy, and Norway). The Karakum Desert is very discouraging, especially for a person who visits the place for the first time. However, people who live here have been building houses, and irrigation systems making the desert serve them. Today, for example, the Karakum Desert is known to produce nearly six million Astrakhan pelt which are highly valued at national and international auctions. By way of comparison it may be said that only 11 million of them are produced throughout the world. The mutton made in the Karakum Desert costs the state only half of

what it costs in other parts of the country, as the pastures here are used all the year round. Among the other crops such as grapes, various fruit and vegetables, cotton grown here occupies more than one half of all the farmland.

The Turkmen capital, Ashkhabad, has this country's only Desert Research Institute. There are only a few similar institutions in the world. Scientists have set themselves a task of stopping desertification and converting several leads which have become deserts into green oases. This is the purpose of the Karakum Canal which is to stretch for 1,400 km from the Amudarya River to the Caspian Sea. This canal will redress the water over large uneven terrain as the first project of its kind in the history of irrigation.

year which can be seen in the pastures of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, with geologic and geodetic teams in the Far East and Kamchatka, and even to the Antarctic. Before the end of 1985 the factory is to double its output and introduce some modifications to the basic model.

New breeds, the author emphasizes, are a very rare commodity forming part of national wealth. To develop a new breed one needs some 14 to 16 years — or four generations of cattle. Therefore all the existing breeds must be carefully preserved. At the same time there are no absolutely perfect breeds. A breed can be regarded as more advantageous only to something already existing. Therefore cattle must be continuously improved. Or else it will not meet the requirements one day.

However, the author points out, breed transformation is immeasurably more complex a process than the designing of machinery, for everything related to living beings requires long time to be completed. Very often milk yields depend on the performance of technology. Modern milking machines are far from being compatible with the cows biologically. They toll to milk some 10 per cent of milk which contains 1.5 to 2-fold more fat than the milk fraction.

The author is of the opinion that cattle breeds and machinery are to be developed in parallel, with technology progressing at a higher rate than selection. For a machine can be easily tailored to a cow than a good cow to a bad machine.

SIBERIA'S SCIENTIFIC PROFILE

The programme "Sibiria" designed to coordinate economic, social, and cultural development of this vast region of the USSR is the subject of the article contributed to SOVIETSKAYA KULTURA by the Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Yevgeny Shemyagin.

At present the programme "Sibiria" is co-sponsored by 80 institutes working under the aegis of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences and 350 institutes reporting to various national ministries and agencies. Suffice it to say that today Siberia is the main fuel and energy producer capable of both making up for lowering coal, oil and gas production in European USSR and increasing the country's total. Siberia required new technological and other solutions and it has acquired them — specifically those

saving labour and energy resources. Researchers conducted by the Nuclear Physics Institute into high-temperature superconductors have already saved the country 124 million rubles. A major part of the effort by the Institute of Cyrology and Cryogenics in Siberia has resulted in a new breed of wool-producing sheep characterized by high productivity and producing twice as much wool. The dream of Siberian farmers to have a frost-resistant wheat will come true. Altai-12 is more frost-resistant than the Miranovskaya-88 wheat. And the list of examples may continue.

THE BALTIC: A PROTECTED SEA

In LESNAYA PROMYSHLENNOST, Professor E. Aitson, of Batoni, writes:

Today our sea is cleaner than four years ago, and its quality continues to improve. The Baltic forms the subject of concern for all the seven countries washed by it. The Soviet Union, including Batoni, has done much to this end. Thus, the Baltic Sea department of the Institute of Thermal and Electric Physics of the Soviet Academy of Sciences is engaged in building a water-tight scheme relieving the study into sea pollution.

There is one problem — the study into sea pollution. The reason for this is plankton, which forms a link and often rather large ones. It is not only plankton but also affects the structure of water masses and the distribution of various substances in water.

Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Yevgeny Shemyagin. At present the programme "Sibiria" is co-sponsored by 80 institutes working under the aegis of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences and 350 institutes reporting to various national ministries and agencies. Suffice it to say that today Siberia is the main fuel and energy producer capable of both making up for lowering coal, oil and gas production in European USSR and increasing the country's total. Siberia required new technological and other solutions and it has acquired them — specifically those

'Small' oil from the Kama Area

A well which yields only an tonnas of oil every four hours has been commenced near the ancient town of Cherdyn in the Ural.

Though this small yield is predicted by the prospect, the shaft was sunk, as it is possible to provide local city's boiler plant. When it is modified to be fueled by oil it became possible to transport thousands of tonnes of coal to this town located for every kilometre. Two other small micro-wells provide fuel for the district centre of Verkhnyaya. Wherever of present they provide no more than half a tonne of oil a year. In 1990 this figure will rise to ten thousand.

ISLAND EXPORTS FOOD PRODUCTS

Saaremaa, the biggest of the Moon Sound Archipelago, has acquired major significance for Estonia. Recently the island sent its planned convoy of ships: rice, flour, meat and milk products.

Saaremaa has long been known for its fish products. Other foodstuffs being imported from the mainland. This explains why a large amelioration programme was completed in the past years. The result being a plus-fold growth in yield. Cattle breeding has become well provided with fodder, the villages more attractive and comfortable to live. That is why migration to the mainland and town has virtually stopped.

Rye, Estonia's main crop, is farmed there very effectively thanks to the favourable climate and soil conditions. The year's quotas for its production have been overfulfilled.

Places to visit

Steps of Ivan the Terrible in the Cathedral of the Annunciation

Restoration work has completed on the "golden-domed" Cathedral of the Annunciation which is one of the most remarkable edifices of the Kremlin Ensemble in Moscow. The cathedral was built by several generations of Russian masters. The first white-stone



church was built in the late 14th century, by the end of the 16th century a three-domed brick cathedral was completed. In the 1547 the cathedral was severely damaged and restored by Ivan the Terrible with considerable modifications: it acquired two-story colonnades and additional domes over them, with the total number of domes being nine. Both the domes and the colonnades were gilded, hence its name "golden-domed".

The cathedral is famous for fine stone carving embellishing the walls, window plates and the colonnades of the colonnades. Jasper ornaments decorate the floor.

The iconostasis originally designed by Theophanes the Greek, and the wall painting done in the early 16th century by Theodosius are of tremendous artistic value.

The cathedral was a court church for the tsar and his family. Ivan the Terrible was the only to have been barred from entering it after his fourth marriage. Therefore a special porch and flight of steps were arranged for him on the south-eastern side, with the porch known ever since as the Steps of Ivan the Terrible (see picture below left).

Ulyanovsk in the future

A master plan for the development of the city of Ulyanovsk from now until the year 2020 has been approved. It was in this city that Lenin (Ulyanov) was born.

In the old part of the city, on the right bank of middle reaches of the Volga, an area is to be restored to be characteristic of the city of Simbirsk. Old lamp-posts will be put up in the streets along

with shops and other structures typical of the 19th century. In the near future restoration will start of the estate-house of poet Nikolai Yazykov (1803-1846), the house of writer Ivan Goncharov (1812-1881), and the museum of the artist Arkady Plastov (1883-1972). Also to be restored is the wooden house of a teacher where the Ulyanov children were taught, as well as the house which belonged to Lenin's younger brother

Dmitry. Reconstruction is planned of a recreation zone on the Syvaya River, where young Vladimir Ulyanov (Lenin) used to spend his spare time. An actual new city will appear on the left bank of the Volga. It will have buildings of the most modern design. Inhabitants of the city will listen to music to a new Musical Comedy Theatre, see programmes in a new circus, and watch athletic and other events in a Sports Palace.

The population of Simbirsk of the time of Lenin was under forty thousand. Today, it is more than half a million and demographers predict that by the early next century the population will be nearly one million. Correspondingly, the new master plan provides for the development of the transport network in the city. The two halves of the Volga will be linked by a new six-kilometre bridge, and in the future, Ulyanovsk will have an underground railway system.

WITH SCUBAS TO THE MOUNTAINS

Scientists of the Moscow Research Instrument-Making Institute were recently seen climbing a mountain in the Pamirs with scuba. Not for the faint of heart, they descended to the bottom of Lake Sarez and anchored there a new signalling device which was designed to provide accurate data on water level changes in the lake.

The Sarez-like lake was formed by an earthquake some 70 years ago when a tremor

New sphere of Soviet-Indian cooperation

A delegation of Soviet specialists in welding headed by K. Yushchenko, Deputy Director of the Palon Institute of Electrical Welding, recently visited India.

Talks between the delegation and senior staff members of the Indian welding research institute concentrated on the development of cooperation in the study of welding problems to meet the needs of Indian industries. After the talks a protocol was signed to determine the main areas of the cooperation between the Palon Institute and the welding institute of India.

Under the protocol, the Palon Institute will assist in the development and transfer of technology in the area of mechanized arc welding, welding of cast iron, and production of pure fluxes for special welding of stainless steel.

Addressing journalists after the signing of the protocol, the Director-General of the Indian Institute A. Shrivastava stressed that cooperation with the Palon Institute will make it possible to modernize Indian welding equipment in a short time and to bring it up to date. This will help to develop industrial tools for engineering, military, power engineering, and also for the construction of gas pipelines and of offshore oil platforms.

Science and technology

HALLEYS

COMET PICTURED

Scientists of the Institute of Astrophysics of the USSR Academy of Sciences were the first in this country to picture Halley's comet using the telescopes of the Sengok observatory. The famous comet approaches the Sun once in every 76 years and then again departs. The available instruments make it possible to monitor the comet's motion already from a considerable distance from the Sun. Simultaneously, preparations are under way for electrophotometric spectral analysis, photographic "close-ups", etc., as part of the USSR-sponsored section of the Halley's comet international programme.

TOBACCO IS GOOD FOR FISH

Scientists in Western Ukraine have proved that preparations made of tobacco are good for fish.

Fish have their own ailments, too. Ye. Bosakovich, Cand. Sc. (Biology). There is nothing wrong to feed fish, together with mixed feed, with small quantities of tobacco dust (industrial waste product). Experiments have proved that small doses of tobacco have no adverse effect on fish but rather destroy infectious pathogens.

An effective and economic way of combating fish ailments will help raise pond yields.

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VIEWPOINT

RURAL LIFE ADVANCES

Lev VOSKRESENSKY, economic observer

Improving quality of life in rural areas is a remarkable feature of the present-day life in the Soviet Union. This is not a spontaneous process, but a result of considerable efforts demonstrated by the Soviet state.

Under the country's socio-economic development plan, 37 thousand million rubles has been earmarked in the current five-year plan (1981-1985) for the construction of housing, cultural and other services in the countryside. However, the investments have been increasing since 1962-1983, and, as a result, over the first four years of the five-year plan period, expenditures on social needs in the countryside have been, in fact, 38 thousand million rubles out of the 172 thousand million representing the total capital investment in agriculture. In other words, one out of every five rubles invested in agriculture is spent on improving and developing social infrastructure.

The growing living standards of the Soviet farmers is noticeable from all angles. Let us take housing construction. Over the past two years, housing in the countryside has increased by 50 million square metres. Proceeding from the norms and standards existing in the Soviet Union, this means that one million farmers' families, or approximately four million people out of the 96 million living in the countryside, have improved their housing conditions.

Take education. New schools built over the same years can take in 550 thousand new pupils. Considering that the number of pupils in the rural areas is approximately 17 million, the growth is quite obvious.

Also growing are the farmers' incomes. In 1983 alone, the average monthly earnings of collective farmers went up from 128 to 138 rubles. This is somewhat smaller than the average earnings of industrial and office workers, which even that same year went up from 177 to 182 rubles, but one should take into account the fact that the smallholdings — practically every rural family has one — go a long way to level off incomes.

The growing living standards in the countryside have far-reaching effects. For example, all demographers agree that migration to urban areas, which a few years ago was a serious threat to the countryside, is now approaching an optimal level. In many Soviet administrative regions and republics, there is an influx of skilled workforce to the agricultural production sphere, while the outflow of the young from the countryside is shrinking to a comfortable level.

How will all this tell on the results of the activities of the agroindustrial complex in the country?

Some Soviet economists estimate that every ruble invested in the development of agriculture in the countryside yields 1.14 rubles in profit, and each ruble put in the development of health services brings 2.30 rubles in profit.

There is another thing well-tested in practice. Nearly one-third of all the increase in agricultural productivity is now provided for by increases in the level of education of the farmers and by their growing skills.

ENTERTAINMENT

Maya Plisetskaya's plans for the future

The ballerina Maya Plisetskaya is now in Vilnius where she is playing a part in a film now being shot about the artist and composer Mikalojus Ciurlionis (1875-1911).

It is hard to exploit in just two words whom in this case I have to play, since this is not a real being, but a certain image about which Ciurlionis constantly dreamed, and which evaded him, and yet inspired him to make new artistic creations, Plisetskaya says. There can be no doubt that if I am offered to play other parts worthy of attention, I would again act in films, but the cinema will never take the place of ballet in my life, said Maya Plisetskaya. Earlier, she danced in the films, "Anno Karolinn", "Tchaikovsky" and "Fantasia".

For the two years to come, Maya Plisetskaya has a rather busy schedule. This time she has been combining her appearances as a prima at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow with her duties as the Director of the Ballet Company of the Opera in Rome. There she has staged "Romeo and Juliet" by Alexander Glazunov. She will also stage "The Hippocratic Vow" by Rodion Shchedrin, "The Carmichael" in music based on Georges Bizet, "The Firebird" by Igor Stravinsky and other ballets.

DAYS OF GDR CULTURE

A concert by the Dresden Opera soloists on the Bolshoi Theatre stage has opened in Moscow the Days of Culture in the USSR. It is devoted to the 35th anniversary of the founding of the republic.

The various activities marking the Days include concerts by leading art companies and soloists, and several exhibitions to be held in over 100 Soviet cities.

Moscow and Leningrad will host the Berlin-Moscow Gorky Drama Company which will stage Gorky's "Petya Bougakov" and Chekhov's "Platonov". Music lovers will attend concerts by the Leipzig Radio Symphony Orchestra, Camerata Musica ensemble and the Dresden string quartet. The exhibition "Soviet Masterpieces of World Art from Dresden" is one of the central events of the Days. This rare collection is mounted at the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts. Exhibitions at Meissen china and folk crafts are also to be opened. As part of the Days a festival of GDR films will be organized. The programme of this art and friendship fête will feature performances by leading Soviet professional and amateur



A scene from Mozart's "Così fan tutte" performed by Dresden Opera soloists. Photo by Andrei Stepanov

companies and groups. They have prepared drama and concert programmes based on works by German classics and modern GDR authors.

These include the premiere of Mozart's opera "The Abduction from Serraglio" to be staged at the Moscow Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Theatre by Henry Kupfer, chief art director of the Komische Oper.

Traditionally, the Days' programme features meetings and discussions by representatives of creative intelligentsia of both countries—writers, composers, people of theatre and architects.

EXHIBITIONS IN BAVARIA

Alexei Shchegolev is one of the modern Soviet artists well known in the Federal Republic of Germany. His graphic sheets, water colours, and lithographs were displayed recently at exhibitions in Kiel, Aachen, Lüneburg, and Regensburg, and 32 of his works were bought by Peter Lungwig, a major collector and connoisseur of Soviet fine arts. Shchegolev's exhibition has become a notable event in Munich's cultural life. The show which lasted twenty days was visited by more than 12 thousand people and was covered in detail by the press, radio and television.

Both classics and modernity

Literary works by V. Kaverin, V. Rasputin, V. Tondryakov and other famous Soviet writers have been included in the all-volume collection of modern Soviet prose published in the Serbo-Croatian language in Yugoslavia. Major Yugoslav publishers continue this year to familiarize the Yugoslav reading public with the multinational Soviet literature. Jointly with their Soviet colleagues, they are working on a regular series "Library of Russian and Soviet Literature". First in the series is V. Rasputin's novel, "Farewell to Mayakov", short stories by V. Shukshin, F. Abramov's trilogy — "Pryesloy", selected short stories by A. Chukov, F. Dostoyevsky's novel, and A. Herzen's novel, "My Past and Thoughts" will also be published.

A show marking the 150th anniversary of the outstanding 19th-century artist-illustrator Vasily Perov, is open in Moscow's Tretyakov Gallery. It shows some 250 works from many national art repositories, among them Russian painting masterpieces like "A Religious Procession in a Village at Easter", "Refreshment of Mytilich", "Troika", "Hunters at Rest", and portraits of writers and artists. There are also less known works from the Paris series as well as historical paintings.



● Vasily Perov, "Ao Angler".

Theatre, Cinema and TV Stars

VLADIMIR SHEVELKOV



Take a young actor. What can he do more traditional than a description of how he made his first appearance in the cinema? I never thought that I would ever be a film star, I had been dreaming about this when I was still a child — these are the two grooves in which mere chance and one's fate whimsically intermingled in an endless variety of options and led one to... Could it be the first? This sounds too pretentious, into a protestant? This does not apply to everyone. Could it be that it leads to life, your own life?

Vladimir Shevelkov's route was dictated by mere chance. The seventeen-year-old first-year student at the Leningrad Electrical and Technological Institute named after Ul'yanov (Lenin) who was to become microelectronics engineer, was somewhat surprised when a physical training instructor told him that the Leningrad Studios were looking for a hero for a new film. His first reaction, "Why should I be me?" soon gave way to "Why should I be not?" Vladimir now believes that it was only at the trial and after looking at his "rivals" at the filming site did he understand immediately, that he would be assigned the part. Whether this was or not is not for us to discuss, but it is quite cer-

tain that it was he who played Sergot, a senior schoolboy who endlessly wrote to despair one and the same phrase, "Let Klava K. take the blame for my death", which gave the film its name.

How did he play it? Not badly, as his debut was met with approval by film critics (this was particularly important for his future) and by film directors and their assistants.

What is the most common fate awaiting a young actor after a successful debut? More often than not, it is a stereotype: he begins to be invited to play similar parts. This was different in the case of Shevelkov's variation: his next part was a curly and hair-shirted secretary highly amusing in his inimitability in the employ of Lady Woodstock in a three-part television serial on Stepanov's "The Adventures of Pinocchio", and later Casio to the beloved opera "Otello".

This disimilarity could have been described as the width of his artistic range, were he an experienced actor. However, he was still a would-be engineer obeying subconsciously and intuitively the will of the film director, rather sceptical about acting in general, and just continuing "to act in films". It was the part of Sergot that cost the first seeds of doubt in his soul. And not so much logic, as Alexander Romanov who played that part. When Vladimir saw how Romanov worked, his self-indulgence, he suddenly realized that he himself should not continue to just act — nor did he have any right to — that there was a system of work and that he had to take a decision.

The critical was to become a student at the Institute of Cinematography in Moscow where he joined the workshop of film director and actor Yevgeny Mavrov.

Four years he spent at the Institute. In Moscow, attending classes, training, and taking part in plays like any other student. During those four years he also played in various films. These were his years of apprenticeship as an actor. Supplementing each other, studying and working have convinced Shevelkov that the main thing in the profession he has chosen is work on a sophisticated idea, except that everyone of us makes this discovery anew, quite by oneself.

What happens to an average Cinematography Institute graduate as a rule he is assigned a job of a film studio and continues his career as a cinema actor. What about Shevelkov? On the surface, he has complied with the tradition. He has just been hired by the Leningrad actors group, and his artistic career is just beginning.

Oleg SHERVUD

WHAT'S ON?

October 13-15

THEATRES

Bolshoi Theatre (Sverdlov Sq). Days of the GDR Culture in the USSR. Performances by the Dresden Opera. 14—Strauss, "Ariadne auf Naxos" (opera). Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre (17 Puskhinskaya St). 13—Strauss, "Der Zigeunerbaron" (operetta). 14 (mat.) — Volynsky, "The Golden Key" (ballet). 14 (eve) — Laocavillo, "Il Pagliaccio" (opera). 15 — Minkus, "Don Quixote" (ballet).

Operetta Theatre (6 Puskhinskaya St). 13 — Gorkhovsky, "Quadrille". 14 (mat, eve) — "Don Quixote". 15 — "Paganini's Adventures". Khrennikov, "Children in Our Backyard" (one-act ballet). 14 (eve) — Gadzhiev, "The Crossroads". 15 — Stravinsky, "The Firebird".

FILMS

Mao of Rare Ability (Leningrad Studios). A fantastic — to a certain extent — story about a man

EXHIBITIONS

Tretyakov Art Gallery (12 Lavrushinsky Lane). Union exhibition dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding Russian artist Vasily Perov. 13 also artist Vasily Perov's works are on display. 14 — famous canvases and Perov's works created by him and before his death. Daily except Monday. 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. Metro-Novokuznetskaya.

BUSINESS

Successes of Interchim

More than four hundred types of chemical products, as well as a large number of machines and equipment for their production are the result of efforts by specialists of Interchim, an international organization of socialist countries in the area of small-chemicals chemistry. The organization's affiliated members are Bulgaria, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Cuba, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. Products from Interchim, set up fifteen years ago, are in great demand on the world market, and are widely used in various branches of the national economy of the fraternal countries. They include synthetic dyes and pigments, chemicals to protect plants and improved polymers,

used in the textile, leather and pulp industries. There are obvious reasons why the organization has its headquarters in the city of Halle, the German Democratic Republic. On all sides, the city is surrounded by major chemical enterprises well known in the republic — the Walter Ulbricht Complex, Buna synthetic rubber factory, and an electric chemical combine in Bitterfeld. In their production shops, specialists develop new types of chemical products and their joint manufacture under contracts concluded with Interchim, scientific institutes at the fraternal countries conduct a series of research work in the area of minor chemistry.

Boosting up Algeria's power generation

The All-Union Technopromexport foreign trade association and the Algerian national company Sodegaz have signed a contract for the construction of the 530 MW thermal power station in the Algerian town of Elja.

The signing of the contract is an expression of the political will of Algeria and the Soviet Union to further boost and consolidate all-round cooperation, said Halkasem Nabl, Algerian Minister of Power Engineering, Chemical Industry and Petrochemistry. He noted the vital economic significance of the construction of the new thermal power station, the biggest project of the power engineering industry, stipulated in the Second Five-Year Plan of the Economic and Social Development of Algeria for 1985 through 1989.

Addressing the ceremony marking the signing of the contract, M. Harati, director-general of Sodegaz, highly appreciated the role of Soviet associations taking part in the construction of power generating facilities in Algeria.

Contacts and contracts

● A major contract has been signed between the All-Union Foreign Trade Organization Promimport and the Finnish joint-stock company Fininvest for the execution by the Finnish side in 1984-1985 of designing, construction, and reconstruction of the first phase of the Vyborg pulp-and-paper mill. When completed, the mill will be capable of producing 60 thousand tonnes of packaging for foodstuffs a year. The contract also provides for the reconstruction and modernization of an existing wood-pulp factory.

● In the Kazakh capital Almaty, a specialized exhibition has been opened under the title "Precise Instruments from Czechoslovakia" organized under the sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kazakhstan and the Czechoslovak Kovo foreign trade organization. The exhibition features measuring and laboratory instruments, printing and copying machines, as well as computers.

● The International Autumn Fair has closed in the city of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. It has awarded gold medals to 75 Bulgarian and 70 foreign firms. The biggest number of gold medals — seventeen — has been received by Soviet goods.

To Georgia with Intourist

In answer to the keen interest towards the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic, Intourist, the biggest Soviet travel agent, offers a series of programmes accounting for personal things. Time is our first story about them.

● THE FABULOUS WORLD OF GEORGIAN CAVES. It is designed specially for speleology enthusiasts and takes you to the famous karst caves which are in no way inferior to those in Czechoslovakia, France or any other country.

● The Novo-Alonskaya karst cave is especially beautiful with its stalactites projecting downwards from the roof and milky, red, yellow and rosy stalagmites projecting upwards from the floor.

Intourist news

The 12-day tour begins in Moscow to include Sukhumi, the capital of the Abkhaz Autonomous Republic, Tskaltubo, a major balneological resort, a major radioelectric spa, Gori, known for a nearby ancient town, Uplistskhe, hewn in the living rock in the first centuries A.D. and finally, Tbilisi, Georgian capital.

Nina BASHIROVA

Philately

Anniversary of space television

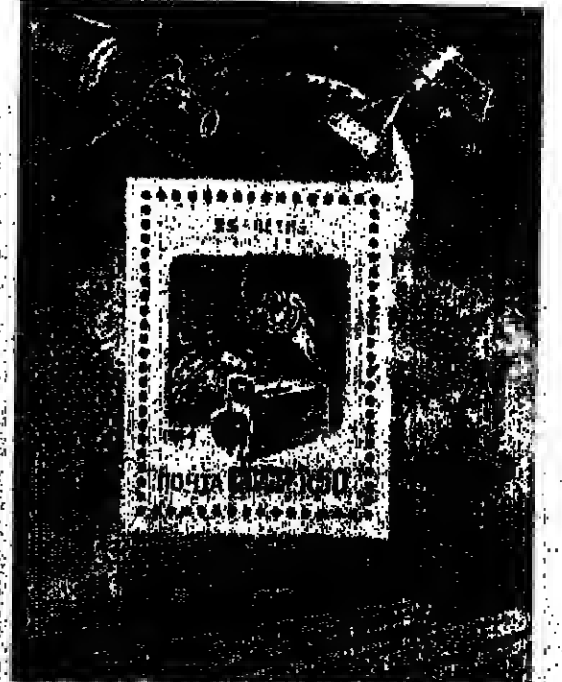
On October 4, 1959, the Soviet Union launched an unmanned interplanetary station, Luna-3, which for the first time photographed the invisible reverse side of the Moon and sent its picture to Earth by television. The USSR Ministry of Communications has marked the 25th anniversary of this event which ushered in space television in the Soviet Union, by releasing three stamps and a commemorative sheet.

A five-kopek stamp is dedicated to the flight of the Luna station and its transmission of the picture of the lunar surface to Earth.

A 20-kopek stamp carries a picture of the surface of the planet Venus made on September 22, 1975, by the unmanned station Venera-9 and transmitted to Earth.

The third, a 45-kopek stamp shows the weather satellite Meteor photographing a cloudy section of the Earth's atmosphere and transmitting the photograph to Soviet ground-based stations.

The series is completed by a 20-kopek sheet with a stamp (picture) showing the installation of a television aerial on the Soyuz station by Cosmonaut Vladimir Lyakhov.



Handwritten text: "The first of the..."